



***George Washington & Jefferson National Forests***  
**Warm Springs Ranger District**  
**422 Forestry Road**  
**Hot Springs, VA 24445**  
**(540) 839-2521**  
**Release #: 12-014**

**Contact: *Lorraine Thomas***  
**Phone: (540) 839-2521**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Forest Service Partners to Manage Lake Moomaw Recreation Areas**

**Covington, Va.** – The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, entered into a partnership with American Land & Leisure (AL&L) to manage operations and maintenance at the six Lake Moomaw recreation areas, and Blowing Springs Campground, in Alleghany and Bath Counties. AL&L has 25 years of experience and manages more than 400 national forest campgrounds across the country. AL&L plans to fill jobs and purchase approximately \$100,000 of equipment and supplies locally. The company pays state and county taxes (lodging, fuel, sales), and maintenance and improvement costs, from collected recreation fees. The facilities remain under government ownership and regulation, with Forest Service oversight.

District Ranger Pat Sheridan explained, “In an effort to match our current and projected funding allocations, we are adjusting our program of work in many areas across the James River and Warm Springs Ranger Districts. The public will notice some changes in how we manage our developed recreation sites. We will always try hard to make the most efficient use of our resources and provide a safe and affordable experience for our public.” Partnerships with professional management companies, recreation fees, and volunteers assist the Forest Service in providing environmentally and economically sustainable public recreation, with excellent customer service and safe, clean facilities.

Services and fees remain the same as last year, and seasonal opening and closing dates are similar. Interagency Access and Senior Passes are honored at family campsites. The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests’ annual day-use permits purchased in 2011 will be honored through December 2012. AL&L is developing an annual day-use permit for sale in 2012. For additional information call the James River Ranger District at (540) 962-2214, or the Warm Springs Ranger District at (540) 839-2521.

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*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*